

Dance or Diplomacy?

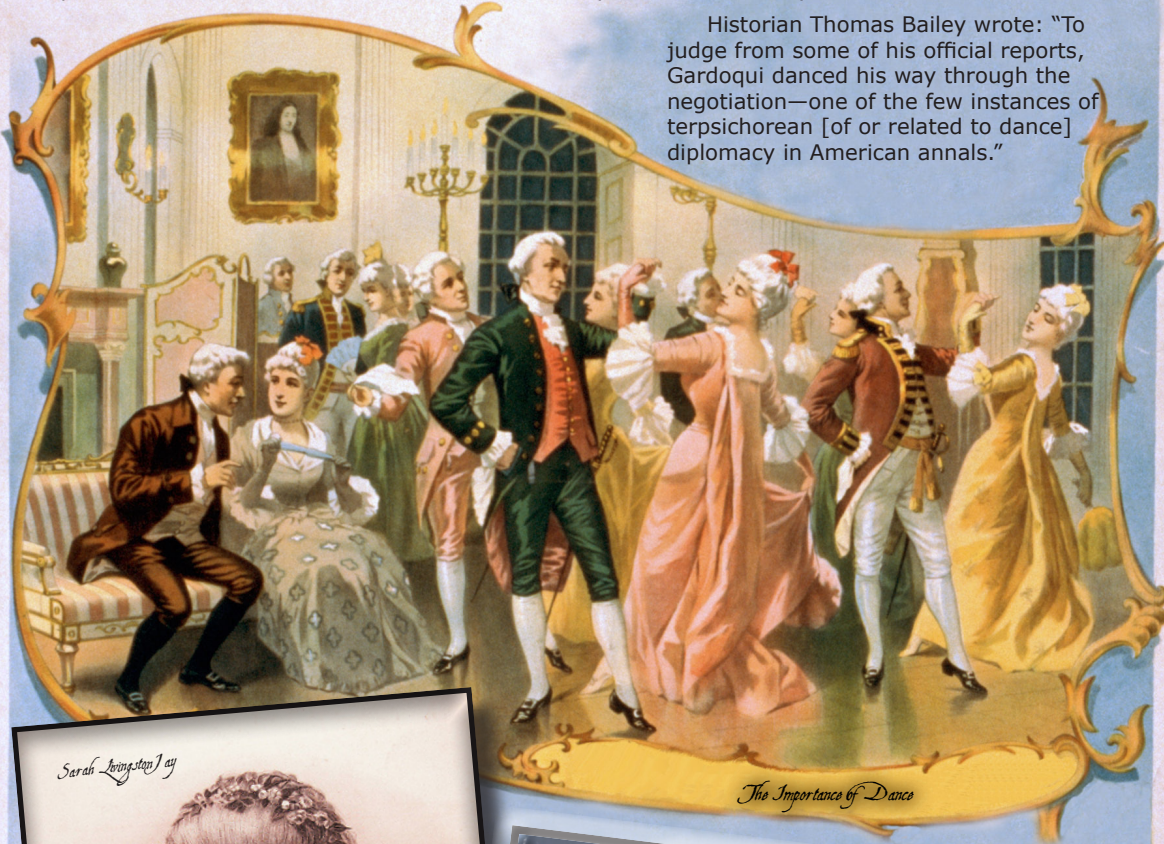
The Jay-Gardoqui negotiations took place in New York, then the nation's capital, from 1785-1786, but not all the negotiating took place in a formal setting. Polite society offered opportunities for the two to meet and perhaps even discuss the issues between Spain and the United States.

Having parties with dancing in one's home was common among the "gentry." Jay's wife, Sarah Livingston Jay, was a premier hostess and welcomed guest. The charming Gardoqui soon made himself at home in New York society

and even escorted Mrs. Jay to various social engagements, with the approval of her husband.

He went out of his way to make himself popular, loaning money and giving George Washington a male donkey from Spain for breeding mules at Mt. Vernon. Washington named the new addition "Royal Gift."

Historian Thomas Bailey wrote: "To judge from some of his official reports, Gardoqui danced his way through the negotiation—one of the few instances of *terpsichorean* [of or related to dance] diplomacy in American annals."



The Importance of Dance



The Art of Diplomacy